

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1934

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, CI
SUBJ: MY MEETING WITH ACTING GOC FOREIGN MINISTER COLONEL
ENRIQUE VALDES: THE TYSON STATEMENT AND THE PRESIDENT'S
LETTER TO FREI

1. SUMMARY: WITHOUT PROTESTING TYSON STATEMENT IN UNHRC,
GOC NOTES IT WITH DISPLEASURE. ON OTHER HAND, IT APPRECIATES
PRESIDENT'S DISAVOWAL OF STATEMENT. SOME TERMS IN PRESIDENT'S
LETTER TO EDUARDO FREI ON CIA CHARGES HAVE CAUSED RAISED
EYEBROWS. END SUMMARY.

2. I WAS SUMMONED ON SHORT NOTICE TO A MEETING EVENING
MARCH 10 WITH ACTING GOC FOREIGN MINISTER COLONEL
ENRIQUE VALDES. MEETING OFFERED INTERESTING INSIGHT
INTO WORKING OF THE CHILEAN MILITARY MIND.

3. COLONEL VALDES SAID HE HAD CALLED ME IN ON PINOCHET'S
INSTRUCTIONS. PINOCHET WISHED TO EXPRESS HIS SURPRISE
AND DISAPPROVAL RE THE STATEMENT MADE BY BRADY TYSON
IN GENEVA MARCH 8. THIS WAS INSTANCE OF INTERVENTION
IN CHILEAN AFFAIRS. ON THE OTHER HAND HE HAD NOTED
WITH PLEASURE PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROMPT REPUDIATION OF THE
STATEMENT. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOC COULD NOT KEEP SILENT
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AND HAD THEREFORE JUST ISSUED A DECLARATION ON THE SUBJECT (BELOW).

4. VALDES THEN SAID THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE TOO HAD BEEN DIS-
TURBED, NOT ONLY FOR THE SAME REASON AS THE PRESIDENT BUT ALSO
BECAUSE THE EMBASSY HAD NOT COMMUNICATED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE
THE TEXT OF THE DISAVOWALS. AS IT HAPPENED, I HAD WITH ME ALL
THE RELEVANT STATEMENTS, INCLUDING ONE WE TRANSCRIBED BY RADIO

OF THE PRESIDENT'S MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE, AND HANDED THEM TO VALDES AS HE SPOKE. I EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD ONLY JUST FINISHED TRANSCRIBING THE PRESIDENT'S LATEST STATEMENT AND THAT TIME HAD NOT PERMITTED US TO NOTIFY THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON A MATTER THAT WAS IN ANY EVENT ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

5. VALDES THEN ASKED WHETHER THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER TO EX-PRESIDENT FREI ON ALLEGED CIA PAYMENTS, WHICH HE HAD LEARNED ABOUT IN THE PRESS, WAS AUTHENTIC. I SAID IT WAS AND EXPLAINED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN A CHANNEL IN THIS MATTER. SPEAKING FOR PINOCHET, VALDES THEN RAISED TWO POINTS REGARDING THE LETTER. FIRST, HE NOTED IT WAS DIRECTED TO "MR. PRESIDENT". SECOND, HE NOTED THE REFERENCE TO "YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF CHILE". THIS LANGUAGE HAD CAUSED PINOCHET TO WONDER WHETHER THERE MIGHT SOMEWHERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE BE AN IMPRESSION THAT PERHAPS FREI STILL RETAINED SOME PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY.

6. IN REPLY, I TOLD VALDES THAT UNDER COMMON AMERICAN USAGE, AND EX-PRESIDENT WOULD BE ADDRESSED AS "MR. PRESIDENT" AS LONG AS HE LIVED, JUST AS WOULD AN AMBASSADOR OR COLONEL. ON THE SECOND POINT, I SAID I WOULD TAKE NOTE OF PINOCHET'S REMARKS, BUT I COULD ASSURE THE GOC THAT I HAD BEEN ASKED TO DELIVER THE LETTER TO EX-PRESIDENT FREI, AND THAT THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING IN THE USG. OUR ONGOING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT WE WERE DEALING WITH THE PRESENT GOC.

7. VALDES CLOSED BY STATING THAT HE HAD MADE THESE POINTS TO ME ON THE BASIS OF THE CORDIALITY AND FRANKNESS WHICH HAD ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED OUR RELATIONS.

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8. COMMENT: THE GOC REPRESENTATION ON THE TYSON STATEMENT WAS ABOUT AS MILD AS IT COULD BE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. OBVIOUSLY THE PROMPT DISCLAIMERS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE DEPARTMENT COOLED DOWN THE CHILEANS, THOUGH SOME RANCOR CLEARLY REMAINS. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SOME OF PINOCHET'S SUBORDINATES HAVE BEEN DOING THEIR BEST TO RESTRAIN HIS EMOTIONAL REACTIONS, TO BOTH THE TYSON STATEMENT AND THE LETTER TO FREI.

9. STATEMENT RELEASED BY GOC LATE MARCH 9 FOLLOWS.

QUOTE: OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF GOC FOREIGN OFFICE. YESTERDAY MR. BRADY TYSON, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE 33RD SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, CURRENTLY MEETING IN GENEVA, EXPRESSED OPINIONS WHICH TEND TO QUESTION THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE AND THEIR ARMED AND POLICE FORCES WHICH WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRONUNCIAMIENTO MILITAR (COUP) AND ALSO USED INADMISSIBLE TERMINOLOGY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION WHICH ACTUALLY EXISTS IN CHILE. AL-

THOUGH IT IS CLEAR THAT ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED REPORTS, MR.
TYSON HAS BEEN DISAVOWED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
MR. JIMMY CARTER, THE GOC REJECTS IN THE MOST ENERGETIC MANNER
THE STATEMENTS OF THAT OFFICIAL (TYSON), CONSIDERING THEM UNFOUNDED,
IRRESPONSIBLE, AND CONSTITUTING AN OPEN INTERVENTION IN THE
INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THIS COUNTRY. UNQUOTE.
POPPER

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